Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (***cancelled***)

13. (***new***) A method for the early determination of the risk of mortality of patients in intensive care units for whom the clinical diagnosis is sepsis, severe sepsis or septic shock, comprising:

obtaining a serum or plasma sample of a patient in intensive care units for whom the clinical diagnosis is sepsis, severe sepsis or septic shock, and

selectively determining the concentration of Cu/Zn SOD in said sample by means of an immunochemical assay method specific for Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase (Cu/Zn SOD or SOD-1),

wherein concentrations of Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase which are above a predetermined cut-off are correlated with a high risk of mortality.

14. (***new***) The method of claim 13, wherein the specific immunochemical assay method is a ligand binding assay of the competitive type or sandwich type.

15. (***new***) The method of claim 14, wherein the ligand binding assay is a homogeneous or heterogeneous immunoassay of the sandwich type, in which at least one marked monoclonal or polyclonal antibody is used for detecting Cu/Zn SOD and the marking is selected from radioisotope, fluorescence, chemiluminescence and enzyme marking and direct optically detectable dye particles.

16. (***new***) The method of claim 13, wherein a value of 310 ng/ml or more is chosen as the optimal cut-off for the measured Cu/Zn SOD concentration.

17. (***new***) The method of claim 13, which is carried out as part of a multiparameter determination in which a quantitative or qualitative determination of at least one further sepsis prognosis marker is effected at the same time.

18. (***new***) The method of claim 17, wherein the concentration at least one additional marker is determined in addition to Cu/Zn SOD, wherein said further marker is selected from the group consisting of procalcitonin; cancer antigen 19-9 (CA 19-9); cancer antigen 125 (CA 125); S100B protein; S100A protein; soluble cytokeratin fragments selected from CYFRA 21, tissue polypeptide specific antigen (TPS) and/or soluble cytokeratin-1 fragments (sCY1F); peptide inflammin; calcineurin B homologous protein (CHP); LIM and SH3 protein-1 (LASP-1); glycine N-acyltransferase (GNAT); mutarotase; carbamoyl phosphate synthetase-1 (CPS 1); peptide prohormones selected from pro-atrial naturetic peptide (proANP), pro-brain natriuretic peptide (proBNP), pro-adrenomedullin (proADM); and C-reactive protein (CRP).

19. (***new***) The method of claim 17, wherein the multiparameter determination is effected as a simultaneous determination by means of a chip technology measuring apparatus or an immunochromatographic measuring apparatus.

20. (***new***) The method of claims 13, which is carried out as an immunochromatographic point-of-care method.